

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097369
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:WLUNDY:SJP
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-----038439 152227Z /62

R 150346Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, BTRA, TW

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM CHAIRMAN OF
MANHATTAN INDUSTRIES

1. DEPARTMENT (EA/ROC) RECEIVED A CALL ON APRIL 14 FROM
LAURENCE LEEDS, JR., PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
OF MANHATTAN INDUSTRIES, REGARDING NEWS HE HAD JUST
RECEIVED ABOUT THE CANCELLATION OF QUOTA FOR EXPORT TO
THE U.S. ALLOTTED HIS ROC SUPPLIER, GENERAL GARMENTS,
LOCATED IN KAOHSIUNG AREA. ACCORDING TO MR. LEEDS,
MANHATTAN INDUSTRIES WILL BE UNABLE TO IMPORT SOME
DOLLARS 10 MILLION IN HIGH QUALITY LADIES SHIRTS SOLD IN
THE U.S. UNDER LADY MANHATTAN, AMANDA, AND HALSTON LABELS.
SHIRTS WERE EXPECTED TO BE IMPORTED FOR SALES DURING
JUNE-OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR.

2. LEEDS IS UNSURE OF THE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES CAUSING
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CANCELLATION OF THE COMPANY'S QUOTA, BUT ASSUMES IT MAY
HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE FACT THAT GENERAL GARMENTS
IS OWNED BY OVERSEAS CHINESE INVESTORS RESIDING IN HONG
KONG. HE UNDERSTANDS DECISION WAS MADE BY TAIWAN TEXTILE
FEDERATION. MANHATTAN INDUSTRIES IS NOT REPRESENTED BY
AN AGENT IN THE ROC, BUT LEEDS CLAIMS TO BE CLOSE FRIEND

OF DOUGLAS HSU OF FAR EAST TEXTILES CO. FAMILY WHO ACTS
AS HIS UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND WITH WHOM HE IS
TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH.

3. ACCORDING TO LEEDS, INABILITY TO PURCHASE ORDERS AS
PLANNED FROM GENERAL GARMENTS WILL MEAN LOSS OF "SEVERAL
MILLION DOLLARS" TO MANHATTAN INDUSTRIES. HE UNDERSTANDS
AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS CAPACITY IN TAIWAN TEXTILE
INDUSTRY, BUT ALLEGES THAT PRODUCTION OF HIGH QUALITY
LADIES SHIRTS WHICH MANHATTAN PLANNED TO IMPORT COULD
NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER MANUFACTURER WITHOUT
SEVERAL MONTHS DELAY.

4. LEEDS AND THREE ASSOCIATES ARE DEPARTING FOR TAIWAN
ON APRIL 15 AND EXPECT TO ARRIVE IN TAIPEI ON APRIL 17
CAL FLIGHT 007 AT 1040. HE PLANS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH
E/C COUNSELOR KYLE OR COMATT AYLWARD EARLY ON MONDAY
APRIL 17 AND WILL APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE
EMBASSY MAY HAVE TO OFFER.
CHRISTOPHER

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